

Cmt ID	Date	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Submission Category	Comment Letter	Includes Attachment(s) (X)
1	6/7/2021	John	Clod	Individual	Email	I am all for the re-opening of Albert Pike Recreation Area. I moved here shortly after the flood that destroyed the area. My only concern is how will the Forest Service keep ATVs out of Albert Pike? The ATVs have already ruined the forest in and around Polk County. Can we please have an area that is not impacted by the noise and pollution and destruction of ATVs? Thank you fro the opportunity to comment. John	
2	6/8/2021	Brad	Bray	Individual	Email	As a local landowner and frequent visitor to this area, it disturbs me to see the area has been totally neglected for the past ten years. I understand the concerns of allowing overnight camping below the flood plain but to let this facility completely go untouched with maintenance is a sad sight. This is a national treasure that I feel needs to be preserved. The beauty and uniqueness AP offers are natural gifts of God. There are ways to develop new overnight camping areas above the flood plain as well. Campers may not be “on the water” but the ability to stay there overnight should be made available in a safe manner. This jewel of the Ouachitas need attention and deserves rebuilt. The taxpayers/visitors also deserve to be heard. There are very few opposed to cleaning it up and redeveloping new sites in safe areas. I’m not sure where the blame falls for the conditions now and I really do not care. I just know it is time to clean up, rebuild, and develop a plan for future overnight stay.	
3	6/8/2021	Dan	McIntyre	Individual	Email	My name is Dan McIntyre and I would love to see Albert Pike restored to it’s pre-flood state and be opened, once again for fee-based overnight camping. I am 72 years old and from the time I was a teenager, my heart yearned for summer and camping at Albert Pike! There is absolutely no place on earth as beautiful and relaxing and even though I am older now, I still love to visit with my kids and grandchildren for day trips! I can still hike up to “Bear Cave” with the grands and tell them scary stories on the way up about the bears that live there and wonder will we find them home! Lo!!We live in NW Louisiana and I have met so many wonderful friends through the years and I sure miss those days and nights making a lifetime of memories! We camped in C section early on in tents and rented pop-ups and later rented rustic cabins. Everyone I know that was aware of the flood, mourned those dear souls that was lost that horrible night but the tragedy of closing the area and denying the thousands of good people the magical experiences that myself and so many others enjoyed is in some ways making the loss of those precious lives even more painful! I believe that if those that were lost that night could have their voices heard, they would, in unison say: “honor our lives by restoring this beautiful place to it’s former grandeur so thousands more that follow will be able to make their special memories and yearn for summer’s starry nights at Albert Pike”! Thanks so much! Dan McIntyre	
4	6/8/2021	Eric	Stewart	Individual	Email	Hello Troy, My family has been camping at Albert Pike since the 60’s. I’ve spent many summer days as a youth and adult swimming in the river and enjoying the trails and surrounding natural wonders. I have countless, irreplaceable memories of my family at Albert Pike. I live in Dallas, which makes day trips tough, and I have not returned since the camp ground has been closed. I rarely if ever do this kind of thing, but I wanted to write you to show full support in any improvements that can be made to preserve the Albert Pike Rec Area for now and future generations. If given the opportunity, I would return camping there in a heartbeat. With the technology at our disposal, surely a flood warning system is not out of the question. I would also gladly sign a waiver upon entry for overnight camping. There is a large, passionate group of people who support Camp Albert Pike, as evidenced in online forums and Facebook pages like “Save Camp Albert Pike”. Thank you for all your diligent work in this effort. God Bless,	
5	6/8/2021	Jeff	Hudgens	Individual	Email	Good morning, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the upcoming decisions regarding the Albert Pike Recreation Area. I am from out of state (Texas) but Albert Pike has been a significant part of my life since my youth. I greatly treasure the time spent in this area with my friends, and later my family. I understand you have hard choices to make. I do not own property there but visit the area as often as possible.It may come as a surprise that my support would be for the option to decommission APRA completely. I believe that the developed areas remaining there just provide an easy access for individuals who don't appreciate or properly care for our remaining natural resources. I point towards the Wolfpen Gap area as an example. Years ago, even with an open forest floor for riding, the impact from ATVs was nothing close to the litter and noise pollution experience there today. ATV technology has advanced creating larger more powerful machines with more aggressive tires and I see that area today and note significant changes. As much as I miss riding my ATV on the smaller less known areas of the Forest, I cringe to think of the damage that would have been done by now if the MVUM had not been implemented.I understand that the Albert Pike area I knew growing up is gone forever. I understand the liabilities that preclude restoring it as it was. I have seen in my short lifetime the loss of actual natural areas and want as much as possible to remain for my children and generations to come. I believe that returning the area to a natural state will limit the visitors to those who truly love nature, and treat it with respect. It's a complicated situation with the private property there in such close proximity.Typically once a natural area is developed it's lost forever. Here lies a unique opportunity to gain back natural habitat rather than lose it.Thank you again for the chance to provide input to this process. Jeff Hudgens	
6	6/8/2021	Julie	Backus	Individual	Email	I am emailing in response to the request for comments on the reopening of Albert Pike. I am absolutely FOR reopening the park. I am 48 years old and live outside of Nashville, AR. As a child, my grandparents owned cabins at Albert Pike and we were raised in the cabin, creeks and snack bar of Albert Pike. I say “cabins” because floods required my grandfather to rebuild a few times after cabins were destroyed. Some were even moved down the road to other places. Did we discontinue our trips there? Absolutely NOT. We were watchful of the weather and knew the danger of quickly rising flood water. We also knew that when the water got to a certain step of the cabin, it was time to leave and go home. And pray that the cabin would be there when we returned.Now, when I take my kids, who are 13 and 4, I am saddened and disgusted at the way this beautiful place has been neglected by the government. This is a National Park, for Pete’s Sake! Sure the flood that claimed so many lives (one of whom I knew personally) was tragic. So let’s move forward with a system to notify campers of impending rains/flood waters. Add a siren. Add additional rangers in the are to make trips through the park. Add gates when the weather is expecting flood waters, such is happening as we speak.But for Heavens sake, open it up! Clean it up! Make it functional and optional for those who grew up loving this magical place.My vote is a resounding YES! YES! Open Albert Puke back up to its full function as it was before the tragic floods that shut it down.Thank you for your time!!!	
7	6/8/2021	Katherine	Pace	Individual	Email	Hello! My name is Katherine Pace and I am a 29 year old woman from White Oak, Texas. I am emailing about the scoping and review of the Albert Pike recreational area because I am invested in what happens to this site in the future.As a child, I grew up traveling 4 hours from my home in East Texas to camp for weeks at a time in the campgrounds at Albert Pike. My family has tons of photos from the time we spent there, and the flood of 2010 was devastating not only because of the loss of life, but because I knew we had lost the campground as well.I want to see the recreational area filled with life again. With precautions put into place to prevent such a tragedy again, I believe many people would flock to the camp ground due to the scenery and tranquility of the area. My family has been by a few times since the flood to see the campgrounds and it is in a sorry state. It's a shame this place has been wasted! Please return the area back to its former beauty. So many people would love to get back out there, including me and my family!My only concern is the overnight camping in Loop C and D. This is where my family and I would camp for long periods of time, but the proposal states camping would no longer be allowed. I would most likely not travel the 4 hours it takes to get to the campground if I were not allowed to stay overnight. More campground space needs to be built closer to the APRA if I were to stay there. A campground host or emergency phones for emergency situations would be very helpful for these situations so people could go camping again. Though tent camping has been proposed, I hope RV camping would be something you will consider in the future, as my family and I never went tent camping and always used an RV. I will not be tent camping in the future either.Thank you for your time in reading my comments.Katherine Pace	
8	6/8/2021	Kimberly	Cole	Individual	Email	Hello, my name is Kimberly Cole, my family and I lost loved ones during the June 11, 2010 flood. I mainly wanted to send my comment not to keep the camping area closed, but to make sure no other family don’t have to go through what my family did. I would like to see the area cleaned up, so it can be enjoyed like it had been before the flood. It is such a beautiful area for families to enjoy. To this day when it storms the memories come back to me very clearly. And yes, at times it is almost unbearable during storms. All I ask is before the camp area is opened back up to please please please ensure that all safety measures are taken care of first. My family as well as the other 19 families have been changed. I have not been to the area since that tragic once in a lifetime even, but I would love to see the area cleaned and enjoyed for day use only! Maybe at some point in my life time I can once again go up to see it. With everything all grown up it just can’t bear to bring myself to come where I can feel close to my lost loved ones! You are more than welcome to contact me if you have any question. Sincerely,Kimberly Cole	
9	6/8/2021	Kyle	Jenkins	Individual	Email	I am 100% for the proposed plan! One of my favorite places to explore and go! Thanks Kyle Jenkins 346-978-9238	
10	6/8/2021	Stephanie	Flaherty	Individual	Email	Please reopen for camping.It is a beloved place for so many, despite the unfortunate loss of life. They are remembered and never forgotten. Please reopen. Thank you, Stephanie	
11	6/8/2021	Susan	Gibbs	Individual	Email	I am very excited about the possibility of Albert Pike recreational area opening for overnight use again. I grew up in Northeast Texas and my family went camping every year as far back as I can remember. There was Hiking, fishing and sing alongs. As an adult, I moved to NC where I still love to camp. Albert Pike Arkansas is a hidden gem and I hate to see it deteriorate. Please open it again for the families to enjoy together. It’s so important to have that kind of togetherness.	

12	6/8/2021	Teresa	Lumley	Individual	Email	<p>I am so happy that APRA is going to get the attention it has lacked after the tragic flood. I lost a loved one there (granddaughter). It was hard going back but I have. It is heartbreaking that the lack of attention has made it feel like a grave yard instead of the beautiful magical place it is. I took my other granddaughter and niece there last year and to see them laughing and having the time of their life eased some of the pain I felt there. I look at APRA tragedy the same way I would as a loved one being killed in a wreck on a highway. Would I ever drive that highway again? Yes, I would. I would remember that love every time but with the realization that life moves on. And we must move on. After reading through the lengthy government documents. The best option, in my opinion, based on the provided information, would be keep A &amp; B open for day use year round. Keep bathrooms and bath house open and maintained there and add the new restroom but seems in loop A would make more sense for it. Construct new tent camping sites comparable to loop A&amp;B above loop C with restroom and parking. Not sure why a bath house couldn't be constructed in the area of new tent camping. But if the bath house remains open in loop B at least there is an option of showering. Picnic pavilion and restroom loop D. There is a need for overnight camping for those to travel from far distances to enjoy the beauty of APRA. I have many treasured memories there that far outweigh the one tragic memory and loss. I not only tent camped there but had family with a private cabin. One must not focus on the bad but the good. Locals understand how the rain can affect the river overnight. Educating campers with signage and kiosk would be most beneficial. Having a ranger or host on site would be even better. Even if that person was there during the evening or night time hours to keep watch. Since no warning system can be installed, surely a cell tower could be negotiated close by to at least give cell service for the area. Again, It brings me joy to see that APRA is finally getting some much needed attention and improvements. Thank you ,</p> <p>Teresa Lumley 67 Butler Rd Nashville, AR 71852 870 845-7956</p>
13	6/9/2021	Cody	Tedford	Individual	Email	<p>Albert Pike is a one of a kind natural wonder that I would love to be opened back up all night for everyone to enjoy.Cody Tedford 479-858-8023</p> <p>To Whom it May Concern:My name is Chris McIntyre. I am 48 years old, live in Northwest Louisiana, and desire to comment upon the Environmental Analysis pertaining to the current condition and potential future of the Albert Pike Recreational Area.</p> <p>Some of my earliest and most dear memories are of the trips my family made to Camp Albert Pike. When I was a small child, I would hear stories about how my father's family would come to camp along the Little Missouri River. The site was much less developed during those days and I would try to imagine what it must have been like to travel over gravel roads to sleep along the banks of that cold and clear stream. My mind's picture of Camp Albert Pike is, no doubt, colored by the nostalgia of a more innocent past when cellphones and gps systems were not yet invented. Camp Albert Pike was the perfect getaway for a middleclass family that lacked the resources to travel to the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico or to try to spend all day baking in the sun at Six Flags. Camp Albert Pike offered the promise of a chance to be restored in the chilly waters of the stream or to venture to great heights by hiking to the Bear Cave.</p> <p>Camping at Albert Pike gave one a sense of a direct connection to the people that visited there for generations, as well as a real connection to the land itself. Our current cultural situation in 2021 is fraught with a great sense of loss of meaning. Depression is more prevalent than ever before. Despite the deep interconnected nature of the digital/virtual world, we still need and crave the kind of experience that a weekend stay in the Ouachita Forest along the banks of the Little Missouri can provide.</p> <p>Nothing can bring back the precious souls that were taken from us on that fateful day of the flood in 2010. Nothing can bring back the thousands of souls that have been lost to the ongoing pandemic across our globe. And nothing can bring back anyone who ever fell victim to the manifold dangers of being a human being living among the forces of Mother Nature. A strong cry rises up among the voices of our nation that we must provide Safe Spaces and attempt to mitigate every danger known to Man. But, the wisest among us have challenged us to listen to another vision: we can never make the world entirely safe, but we can, instead, work towards becoming more resilient and better prepared for when the floods of Life come. Camp Albert Pike is the perfect place for us to make this vision a reality.</p> <p>I wholeheartedly endorse the rebuilding of a new Loop C above the 100 Year floodplain so that more families can participate in the same joys that I experienced in my life: walking among the campsites at sundown, smelling the food being prepared by mothers and fathers, listening to the strums of a dozen guitars around a dozen campfires, trying to count the fireflies and trying to remember the names of the constellations overhead.Please do not give up on Camp Albert Pike.</p>
14	6/9/2021	Chris	McIntyre	Individual	Email	<p>Please open Albert Pike for camping. We raised all four of our boys there camping every summer. Plus all their friends. We love camping in C please do the upgrades so everyone can enjoy this piece of heaven. We still go for day use,now I have started taking my granddaughter she wants to camp at Albert Pikes!! Our youngest son died at the age of 16 . He loved it there. We have so many wonderful memories. Every year on his heavenly birthday we go as a family. Little Missouri Falls, winding stair case,bear cave ,car wash and the bath tub and the live bear! I could keep typing forever to tell you the memories. My husband started camping there when he was 1. We miss the people in the park,smell of everyone cooking,all the kids playing together everyone just getting along. We need that this day in time. Our favorite place on earth !Bryan &amp; Danielle Martin</p>
15	6/9/2021	Danielle	Martin	Individual	Email	
16	6/9/2021	Dave	Johston	Individual	Email	<p>I propose keeping the Bluff Mountain Trail and a small trailhead and decommission the rest of Loop C. Dave Johnston Benton, AR.</p> <p>Dear Sir, While I understand the objections of those families who were affected by the flooding several years ago, I also understand the fact that many people have been and are being deprived of our ability to enjoy a beautiful area. I grew up in Texarkana and my family camped at Albert Pike at least once a year, every year, for many years. When my children were growing up we camped there many times and I enjoyed watching them enjoy things like I did as a kid. I have returned many times during the years since the flooding to fish, hike and swim. When I see how the facilities are overgrown, deteriorating and no longer recognizable as a campground, it breaks my heart. As I have talked with the people who have cabins there, most do not want the park open for campers because they enjoy the lack of "outsiders" camping on "their land". While I accept change, just as in primitive areas throughout our nation, people understand they must use common sense and accept responsibility for themselves when entering such areas. Allowing a few people to ruin the outdoors for all is not how recreational areas should be managed. Just as in areas like Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Sequoia or any wild area, each person must decide whether to enter or not, based on personal views and comfort zones. Albert Pike RA has been neglected and held captive for too long by too few. Please consider refurbishing, reopening and developing new areas to allow this great resource to be enjoyed by all who want to use it again. Thank you. Jim Fuller</p>
17	6/9/2021	James	Fuller	Individual	Email	
18	6/9/2021	Richard	Kirby	Individual	Email	<p>I Am excited and encouraged of the possibility of the Albert pike recreation area being open to day use and camping in appropriate areas above the 100 year flood area. It has been sad and wasteful to see the area abandoned and unused for the last 11 years as it has brought joy to myself, family, and many other over the years. While tragedy did strike, we now have better information on what can be utilized safely and I am advocating the area be returned to its previous condition and appropriately opened for people to enjoy this amazing part of the Ouachita NF. I look forward to being back soon. Richard Kirby 19148 Playmakers rd Covington, LA 70435</p>
19	6/11/2021	Chris	Gauldin	Individual	Email	<p>To whom it may concern,My family and I have been going to Albert Pike for the last 20 years, and still make several trips to this day. It is devastating to all of us to see that it is being left in the state of disarray that is in now. I understand the magnitude of what happened, one of my co workers was there and he lost his 3 year old son and wife that day. We think that the best way to honor the victims would to see it restored, and made better, so it can be used for generations to come. I would like to help and if there is any way, please contact me. My cell is 903.280.0597, I live 1.5 hours from there in Foreman, AR.</p>
20	6/12/2021	Melissa	Eastman	Individual	Email	<p>Albert pike has been a generational family place. My grandparents had a cabin up there, my parents honeymooned there, and only 2 of my 3 children have been able to enjoy the wonderful camp. My grandparents sold the cabin only a couple years before I was born, but my parents, friends and aunts and uncles continued to camp there until that horrible night. We actually had reservations to be there the night of the flood, but due to a work thing, we had rescheduled for the next evening. I was 8 months pregnant with my 3 child and had we been there, our trailer would have been under water. God saved us months earlier by changing my work schedule. It is a very sad situation, but closing the park especially to those who know the risks due to generations of memories and legacies who have been on that river is a tragedy too. My mom said, she has seen several floods over the years, one time a refrigerator was left behind in front of their cabin. You never know what you'll find. I personally believe the fault is that of the Army Corp of Engineers... they changed the natural flow of the river, clearing out areas to add more camping facilities and that is why the river responded in such a way. Not to diminish the horror that happened that day, but find a way to have an alert system there and allow people to go back and enjoy the beautiful Little Missouri River at camp Albert Pike.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration, Melissa Eastman</p>

21	6/14/2021	Greg	Williams	Individual	Email	<p>I understand the need to remove structures and let the area revert to primitive status. If it can't be maintained properly, that is better then just letting the structures remain and deteriorate. What I would like to see done in the Albert Pike Recreation Area (and especially around the Eagle Rock Loop) is better signage for parking. Parking that would allow me to leave my car parked while I made the loop. That is a 30 mile loop and I'm almost 70 years of age. I would like to make that hike. But I know it will take me 4 to 6 days and I need someplace I know my car is allowed to remain during that time. Greg Williams 479-216-7811 Mena, AR</p> <p>I would like to add my input for the proposed project regarding Albert's Pike. On behalf of many of us who use Off Highway Vehicles to responsibly navigate National Forest lands, I would like to ask for Albert's Pike rec area to be opened to atleast a pass through of the rec area. Albert's Pike is a favorite destination of so many generations and many prefer to utilize their Ohv to visit the area. Please consider opening Albert's Pike to ohv parking in the same way Little Missouri Falls is. Thanks You,</p> <p>Alexander Wasif 559 Polk Road 61 Mena, Ar 71953</p> <p>PLEASE keep Albert Pike off limits to ATVs. They have ruined the entire area, at least let us have one place free from the constant noise and harassment of ATVs. Open up the camping and recreation again but please no ATVs. Thank You, Clyde</p> <p>I would like to see Albert's Pike opened to OHV travel. Many people like myself find it easier and more enjoyable to navigate forest service roads with an Off Highway Vehicle rather than an on- highway vehicle. This is especially true since Albert's Pike is no longer opened to over night camping. I see no reason to deny those of us traveling by OHV, access to such a favorite past time. Please carefully consider my comments as I know many of our local residents and out of town guests feel the same. Deidre Robinson 559 Polk Road 61 Mena, Ar 71953 479.394.0404</p> <p>When deciding the future of Albert Pike, could you please consider allowing atv/sxs to ride through. There is a beautiful loop you can make from Shady Lake over to Albert Pike and then go on up to Little Missouri Falls. But there is a 500 yd stretch (not really sure how far it is) that is closed and will result in a big ticket. I have never really understood why that section is off limits. And now that no camping is allowed, Albert Pike is like a ghost town so it really doesn't make any sense. If you still don't want campers, just setup plenty of picnic tables and let riders drive through. I think you would get plenty of people come through and just stop for their lunch break and maybe a swim or to use the bathroom facilities.</p> <p>Thanks. Justin Alexander</p>
22	6/15/2021	Alexander	Wasif	Individual	Email	
23	6/15/2021	Clyde		Individual	Email	
24	6/15/2021	Deidre	Robinson	Individual	Email	
25	6/15/2021	Justin	Alexander	Individual	Email	<p>Gentlemen: It has been ten years since the disastrous flood at the Albert Pike Recreation Area. Since that time the facilities have been abandoned by the Forest Service and allowed to return to nature. This is such a tragic loss of such a beautiful recreation area that has given so many users memories never to be forgotten - some very sad but most are unforgettable family times of fun and camaraderie. So many generations grew up there and have touching memories of family now long gone. Please consider the following: Loop C: (1) Clean up the former overnight camping sites and install picnic tables and parking for day use only. Many users over the years used Loop C to access the river. With the foliage overgrown as it currently is, there is no way to access the river for recreational enjoyment. (2) Open the restroom facilities in Loop C. New Overnight Camping Loop: (1) Design and construct a new primitive overnight camping loop above the 100 year floodplain. The Albert Pike Recreation Area is large enough to accommodate a new loop higher on the mountain.</p> <p>(2) Install a bathroom for the new loop. Albert Pike is a jewel, and it draws visitors from all of Arkansas and the surrounding states. I truly do not know of another area as beautiful as this. Please don't allow this area to be lost. Let's honor those lost in the flood by cleaning it up and reopening it.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Deborah and Charles Taylor 50 King Nicholas Rd. Scroggins, TX 75480 debtaylor2248@gmail.com</p> <p>Ouachita National Forest Officials,The Albert Pike Recreation Area &amp; Campgrounds have been closed since 2010 after the major flood accident. Currently, visitors are only using it during the summer time for swimming, I assume. But during this time the National Forest would rather NOT allow ATV/OHVs traffic use the short distance from NF Rd 106 to Albert Pike Rd. National Forest LEOs are handing out \$230 tickets whenever they catch OHV riders passing through the park. Why this needs to stop, and the NFS needs to allow OHVs to go through Albert Pike, is so they can complete the designated loop system provided by the local ATV clubs and the National Forest MVUM. The short distance through Albert Pike is 0.8 of a mile to 1 mile long. The short distance to go from NF Rd 106 up to Albert Pike Rd is the only hurdle that keeps riders from able to go from Bard Springs, Blaylock Creek Falls up north to Crooked Creek Falls, and Little Missouri Falls. This loop from the Wolf Pen Gap East Trailhead to Albert Pike Campground and back to the East Trailhead is 33.9 miles but right in the center of that loop is the 1 mile stretch of Albert Pike Recreation Area, which has been off limits to OHV riders.I have added a map with 3 concepts, included in the attachments, along with 2 images of the current Ouachita OHV MVUM from (July 2019) and the Ouachita Mountain Trail Club maps combined. Idea number one will be the most reasonable and cheapest way to complete this loop. Just allow OHV riders to travel through Albert Pike. Nothing has to be done, but only to remove the "NO ATV" signs. The LEO Officer you have down there in the first place can watch for riders doing anything wrong. But if a rider is just passing through at the posted speed limit, or stopping at the swimming hole during a hot summer day. Let the rider(s) be. They are not causing any harm to the park. Just stop the ones that are doing anything wrong, and CRACK DOWN on the ALCOHOL USERS. This \$230 ticket stuff needs to stop, if people are not doing anything wrong but passing through to complete the loop. They are not doing anything wrong, and now the LEO has ruined their day, and possibly their vacation. LEOs should only be handing out tickets to intoxicated riders. Not people trying to enjoy the outdoor scenery of the Ouachita National Forest. And if anyone with their OHV gets off the road or parking lot (onto the grass or beach) then yes that would need to be handled by the park ranger or the LEO on duty. But if the OHV is on the pavement or the gravel roads, they are not going to mess up the beauty of the park.</p>
26	6/20/2021	Debbie	Taylor	Individual	Email	
27	6/21/2021	Joshua	Carper	-South UTV Trail Ri	Email	<p>Idea 1: Open Albert Pike to OHV Riders. Let them go through the park or stop for a swim. As long as they are not doing anything wrong.</p> <p>Idea 2: Create a forestry OHV trail for riders to be able to cut off Albert Pike, by using the Long Creek Road bridge. Have a trail start on the other side of the bridge on Long Creek Road (NF Rd 512). There will have to be concrete crossings on both Long Creek and Brier Creek, going around Cossatot Mountain. The trail will come out onto NF Rd 106 (outside of Albert Pike).</p> <p>Idea 3: Create a forestry OHV trail for riders to be able to go around Albert Pike, but this concept would still go though a section of Albert Pike, but will be a straight shot across to NF Rd 106. Coming from the North (from Albert Pike Road) before you get to Long Creek Road, the trail will cut off to the left, through the woods and come out at the intersection in Albert Pike, allowing riders to get directly onto NF Rd 106.</p> <p>So that being said, the best concept would be Idea 1. It is barely 1 mile long, and what LEO that the National Forest has sitting down there writing \$230 tickets for people passing through, should be stopped, and be more focused on people drinking and driving. Not people trying to complete a designated OHV loop that is on the Ouachita MVUM and local club maps.</p> <p>Joshua Carper Mid-South UTV Trail Riders 9,300 Nationwide Members</p>
28	6/21/2021	Shane	Sims	Individual	Email	<p>I would like to suggest opening up the Albert Pike Recreation area to UTV's, ATV's, and dirtbikes. We had been coming to that area for years before the flood and always enjoyed being able to go down there. We understand the challenges but this area is beautiful and needs to have more access to it. Thanks,</p> <p>Shane Sims</p>

29	6/23/2021	Mary	Schlatterer	Individual	Email	<p>Hi Charity: I understand that there is open discussion about reopening the Albert Pike recreation area. I wanted to express my excitement about this possibility. I am very much in favor of seeing this beautiful park reopened.</p> <p>Mary Schlatterer Little Rock</p> <p>I am writing in favor of re-introducing a primitive camping loop(s) at the Albert Pike Campground, but not RV loops. I grew up camping at the various primitive camping sites in the campground and want future generations to get to enjoy the experience. I think that camping can safely be done at primitive sites above the 100 year flood plain. The land around the river at the old camp sites could be used for some other form of day-use recreation, such as picnic tables, etc. but would look so much nicer if it was maintained. Renovated bathrooms and a shower house would be a must. I would also support exploring funding for an alert system that can alert the campground if an upstream gauge flashed above a certain level. Chris Hankins</p> <p>VP-Network Architect o: (501) 377-8311 f: (501) 377-2437 Chris.Hankins@Stephenssupport.com</p> <p>I respectfully ask that Camp Albert Pike be reopened. It has been years since the tragedy. It's time to re-open so that our families can once again enjoy the natural beauty of the State of Arkansas. Safety precautions can be taken so that another tragedy doesn't happen again. But to continue to keep it closed, only to let it fall into an embarrassing state of disrepair, is not only a disgrace, but is no way to honor the people who died in that flood. Thank you, Dottie McWhiney</p>
30	6/24/2021	Chris	Hankins	Individual	Email	<p>I was a member of one of initial water rescue teams deployed to Albert pike the first morning. My family had camped there as long as my wife and I had been married. We are experienced white water boaters and absolutely loved camping there as with most wilderness areas Tragic accidents happened. I have visited several times since the tragedy and would still like to see camping reopened. I'm still in Fire Service and I'm still part of the counties Swiftwater Rescue team and Dive recovery team in Clark County. Accidents happen and everyone needs to move forward</p> <p>I am appreciative of the opportunity to let my voice be heard regarding the plans for Albert Pike. I am 65 years old and spent time every summer throughout my childhood camping at Albert Pike. It is one of my fondest memories. The flood of 2010 was a horrible tragedy and yes, it probably could have been prevented to an extent. From what I have read, most of the campsites that were tragically impacted were in a newer loop, which was built at a lower elevation along the river. I would support never opening that area to overnight camping, but so much of the area is on higher ground. Yes, if a hundred year flood hit there could be danger anywhere, but the same can be said along any river throughout the state. Warning signs could be posted throughout the area and if any way possible, perhaps some way to give warning to campers. I know there is a lot to take into consideration when considering what to do, but it is such a shame that so many people have a desire to spend time there, as generations of their families have done in the past and be denied that privilege.Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion, Jerri Cooper</p>
31	6/24/2021	Dottie	McWhiney	Individual	Email	
32	6/24/2021	James	Tate	Individual	Email	
33	6/24/2021	Jerri	Cooper	Individual	Email	
34	6/24/2021	Josh	Strickland	Individual	Email	<p>I would like to see this facility reopened to the public for night use(camping) although what happened was very rare. I have been going to Albert Pike since a child and still go to this day but camp in primitive sections. I suggest a sign in and out when arriving and leaving and I know there are areas where there is no cell service but there has got to be a way to alarm people of incoming weather</p>
35	6/24/2021	Julie	Backus	Individual	Email	<p>I emailed my comments to the address below but now I see my email needs to go to your email address. Below is the email of my original comments on reopening Albert Pike. Please continue reading below. I am emailing in response to the request for comments on the reopening of Albert Pike. I am absolutely FOR reopening the park. I am 48 years old and live outside of Nashville, AR. As a child, my grandparents owned cabins at Albert Pike and we were raised in the cabin, creeks and snack bar of Albert Pike. I say “cabins” because floods required my grandfather to rebuild a few times after cabins were destroyed. Some were even moved down the road to other places. Did we discontinue our trips there? Absolutely NOT. We were watchful of the weather and knew the danger of quickly rising flood water. We also knew that when the water got to a certain step of the cabin, it was time to leave and go home. And pray that the cabin would be there when we returned. Now, when I take my kids, who are 13 and 4, I am saddened and disgusted at the way this beautiful place has been neglected by the government. This is a National Park, for Pete’s Sake! Sure the flood that claimed so many lives (one of whom I knew personally) was tragic. So let’s move forward with a system to notify campers of impending rains/flood waters. Add a siren. Add additional rangers in the are to make trips through the park. Add gates when the weather is expecting flood waters, such is happening as we speak. But for Heavens sake, open it up! Clean it up! Make it functional and optional for those who grew up loving this magical place.</p> <p>My vote is a resounding YES! YES! Open Albert Puke back up to its full function as it was before the tragic floods that shut it down.</p> <p>Thank you for your time!!!</p>
36	6/24/2021	Kristel	Hise	Individual	Email	<p>I am writing to express my desire for re-opening the Albert Pike Recreation Area. I am saddened by the events of the flooding that happened a short time ago, however this should not be a deterrent from opening the park, yet an event that we can learn from and make changes for the safety of future campers. Other parks in the nation have had similar events of devastation, and have re-opened or remained open. For example, 17 people died from falling into the Grand Canyon in 2018, however the park remains open, and precautionary measures have been put into place such as more barriers and signage. Over 20 park visitors have died visiting the geysers at Yellowstone,and yet the park remains open. You should not shut down based on an isolated incident. Other parks within the Ouachita National Park system have warning systems and processes in place for early evacuation. Beavers Bend Park has a siren that blares loudly when water is too high. And in this day and age it is unheard of to not have a visitor wi-fi system that campers could connect to incase of an emergency.It will take time to set the measures into place, a little money to invest, and some effort, but generations of past campers, and future campers will thank you.</p> <p>Respectfully, Kristel Hise</p>
37	6/24/2021	MaLisa	Horton	Individual	Email	<p>Hello and Thank you for your time! Like many others, AP has been part of my life since I was a child. My family has shared many happy times there and hopes to continue to do so with current and future generations. I understand the trauma of lost life and risk of future loss.</p> <p>My adult nephew and his wife were part of the life-taking flood years ago. They survived, but witnessed the horror of seeing others lose life.</p> <p>I’ve asked their thoughts and like so many, do wish to have safe camping and regularly maintained facilities at AP.</p> <p>We have returned to visiting AP and are extremely careful to have a way out, camp on the high ground and leave it better than we found it.</p> <p>I am not a engineer who can plan the necessities for safe return, but would offer a few suggestions.</p> <p>Due to the negative impact of unsupervised camping currently happening there, is it possible to install vault toilets, if not more flush toilets. What about dumpsters for trash management?</p> <p>Having a larger picnic/day use area would be favorable. And is it possible to establish a camping area higher up that is not prone to flooding?</p> <p>I do not believe people will stop going to the area and would like to see parameters set for more controlled use.</p> <p>Unfortunately I do not have the answers, just ideas.</p> <p>Overall, the area is a treasure and one that should be protected.</p> <p>I believe that protection can only come about with guidelines and tools for quality use.</p> <p>I appreciate you taking the time to listen. MaLisa Horton</p> <p>1424 N Main St. Joshua, TX 76058 817-366-3823 Malisahorton@gmail.com</p>

38	6/24/2021	Susan	Gibbs	Individual	Email	<p>I grew up going to Albert Pike with my family every year. I would love to see it open for camping overnight again. I would pay extra for camping just to see it looking nice again...and to help pay for any additional needed safety monitors. It would be well worth it. Susan Ogle Gibbs New Boston Tx</p> <p>Dear Troy Heithecker, Let me introduce myself, my name is Teresa ( Brown )Wright. I would like to talk to you about a favorite place where I grew up during the summer months. Yes, I'm talking about Camp Albert Pike. See I lived in Louisiana growing up &amp; now live in Texas. My kids also grew up with trips to Camp Albert Pike during the summer months &amp; would love to share &amp; make memories with my grandchildren there also. I know there was a tragedy that happened &amp; lives was lost. I am so sorry for everyone's family that was affected that day. I pray for peace &amp; healing. But to me to honor lost love one is to honor memories of them where they had happy memories.</p> <p>Natural disasters happen every day every where. But is those places shut down? No they rebuild &amp; forge on. That is what needs to happen at Camp Albert Pike. Needs to be reopened &amp; rebuilt so we can honor those memories of those who was lost &amp; make new ones.</p>
39	6/24/2021	Teresa	Wright	Individual	Email	<p>Do you realize that the National Forestry Service is losing money by keeping it closed? I sat down &amp; thought of how much money was lost in a season that could be used to upgrade the campground &amp; place safety measures. From April - October with campsites @ \$12 a night x 36 sites =432 a night...432 x 7 nights =3024 a week ....3024 x 4 = 12,096 a month....12096 x 7 months = 84,672 (( one season) based on prices we paid in 2009) . That is alot to lose that could make upgrades &amp; safety measures. Is the NFS really happy about losing that amount of revenue over the last 11 years? That is a gross loss of \$931,392 for 11 years.</p> <p>So a few years about i sent a similar letter to Governor Westerman saying the same thing. Even sent a list of over 1,000+ names who want it reopened. Help us , friends who want Camp Albert Pike reopened to overnight camping, get it back open for camping overnight.</p> <p>Sincerely, Teresa Wright Mcleod, Tx</p>
40	6/25/2021	Leroy	Bogan	Individual	Email	<p>Please open the Albert Pike Recreation Area and maintain it. We also need camping reestablished on the higher ground. Leroy Bogan 5515 Hwy 70w Newhope, AR 71959</p>
41	6/26/2021	Linda	VanBlaricom	Individual	Email	<p>Thanks for examining ways to safely reopen Albert Pike Recreation Area. As chair of the Pulaski chapter of the Ozark Society and as a board member of the Arkansas Bicycle Club, I can tell you that both groups love this wilderness area and campground. Our bicycle club camped there the month before the big flood and ensuing tragedy and would love to return. Our OS chapter hiked the Eagle loop in February and would have loved to camp there if it were open for camping. I trust y'all will find a safe way to make this happen, Linda VanBlaricom 4507 Kenyon Dr, Little Rock, AR 72205</p>
42	6/30/2021	Rob	Morrow	Individual	Email	<p>Hello, I live in the local area ( Dierks ) but have visited the Albert Pike area for years with family and friends. It was a terrible incident during the 2010 flood, but with advancement in technology it seems like there could be a way to open this area back up for camping with mandated evacuations at some level. What I have noticed is that the rural camping areas are over run with out of state visitors who appear to not adhere to the “ Natural State “ litter policies. On any given weekend you can pick up a truck load of trash on Sunday at your favorite swimming / wading creek. The litter problem didn’t appear to be this prevalent pre 2010. I know it will be a hard sale to reopen the camping area, but flash floods happen all over the country and the city or area that is affected usually are not shut down and abandoned. Just thoughts, Have a great 4th July holiday. Thanks Rob O Morrow Sr. Electrical Engineer 870-845-6570</p>
43	7/1/2021	Laura	Best	Individual	Email	<p>Hello, I am responding to the inquest to having Albert Pike reopened as a camp ground. Our family has camped at Albert Pike for over 60 years and we only stopped because of it's closure after the flood in 2010. We understand the great tragedy of that flood but we are asking that it be reopened for camping again. One suggestion that you may want to consider is this. There is a natural plateau where the amphitheater was. Could not a road be cut to that and camp sites created as to be above the flood hazard. Surely that would be enough in elevation to provide a safe area to camp. That area holds so many memories for so many families. We have known great joy in camping there for years and always looked forward to going there in June, it is truly a beautiful place, one of a kind and the forest service is to be commended for their management and devotion to our national forest treasures. Please, reopen the grounds and restore us to our beloved Albert Pike. With technology and engineering we can find solutions that will benefit the area and can help restore us to being able to camp there once again. Thank you, Laura Best 1809 Charleston Dr. Garland, TX 75041</p>
44	7/6/2021	Donnie	Taylor	Individual	Email	<p>My name is Donnie Taylor 1314 N 20th Duncan OK. I grew up going to Albert Pike, and now I am 60 years old. I have 20 acres of my daddy's home place, 3.5 miles to the south east. My daddy went over there when he was a boy to play in the water, and ride small pines to the ground at the bluff on the spring trail. This weekend I plan to take my three granddaughters to play in the river below B loop. I expect it to be over run in Loop A &amp; B, no place to park. I was camping at Albert Pike when 3 pickups pulled over at where Loop D is now. They were there to layout new camp sites and call it Loop D. I talked with them and they said the sites were to be on the mountain side of the highway. The next year the sites were on the river side of the highway. Daddy told me then that there would be people killed there because "those Texas people are not smart enough to watch the river". It was a shame that no one listened to those old timers. I am telling you this because when Albert Pike was closed, a large part of my family tradition was killed. The proposal of just allowing day use in Loop A &amp; B will make it miserable because of parking. If it is only day use, and you drove all the way there, you will park somewhere. That normally means everywhere. If C was set up for day use, that would double parking places, and allow access to the mountain trail behind the broken bath house. Oh, my family camped there before the bath house before that one was built. The river is a big part of the Taylor's. A favorite place on the river for all of us we called the big rock. It is located slightly above the high end of C. After 2010, you can't there but by traversing the river. I have been up there three times, but I had to travel from B all the way up the river. Another little note, "The big rock" is still at the same spot and orientation as it was when I jumped of it when I was 4. We have camped in over half the spots in A, B, C, &amp; D, but mainly in C. That is where my kids grew up playing. I am begging that is would be considered to open up C for day use. Charge a fee, no problem. Help cover the up keep. I want my grandkids to grow up going to the river like me and mine, and not fight the current insanity of Loop A &amp; B. As far as the safety, if it raining flood levels, your not going to be there. My daddy taught me to watch, the river, and what God dose to the land around you. Please don't continue to take away my family heritage.</p>

Dear Ouachita National Forest Personnel, Thank you Caddo-Womble District for the opportunity to comment on the Albert Pike Recreation Area EA. Under the Proposed Action, Loop C would be decommissioned. If that action is taken, I am concerned that the USFS is missing an opportunity to possibly disperse some of the congestion experienced in Loop A near the "swimming hole" and to better manage possible parking and trails from the road to the river along Hwy 369.

First, I know those that manage this area are aware that the spaces in Loop A and B can be completely full on busy weekends. If Loop C was returned to pull in picnic spots for Day Use (with picnic table only) or if there were simply designated parking spots along that side of the river (without picnic tables), that could disperse the overuse at the swimming hole area since it would be more convenient to access the river from that side if the vegetation was managed. I know you can reach the river from Loop B, but the incline is considerably steeper trying to go from Loop B down to the river than from the other side of the river. It is especially hard for those with small children. And, that stretch of river is perfect for little ones to play in. In the past, my family played from the bridge at Loop B all the way past the end of Loop C.

Second, as stated in the Open House, no matter what happens people have access to the river, and if people are left to their own devices, they will park wherever they see fit and make trails all over especially if you do start trimming back the overgrowth along Loop C. That could also cause traffic issues if people are not pulling off the road enough. I would prefer that the USFS create clear places for people to park and paths to the river, so everyone could enjoy that part of river more freely. Will there still be volunteer trails pop up? Yes, but given the option, people will follow the path of least resistance.

Furthermore, on the Open House, the Supervisor mentioned the sustainability of managing Loop C being an issue. Specifically, the concrete of the bathhouse is typically underwater at least once year. I believe the old host spot was also paved. I can't remember if any of the other spots were updated in the last construction with concrete, but when I say places to park/picnic, I would be proposing natural surfacing or gravel, nothing concrete or asphalt. I am in support of the decommissioning of the existing Loop C bathhouse if it is not sustainable to continue its management, but a vault toilet and trash bins would be helpful if parking was managed along Loop C to avoid litter.

The EA never mentioned parking for the Bluff Mountain Trail. I haven't been on that trail for over 13 years now, and perhaps, it is completely overgrown. However, I still see it on the maps, and I personally would like the opportunity to hike it again. As it is now, I feel with the overgrowth along Hwy 369 there isn't a safe place to park for that trail head and with the overgrowth parking seems to be discourage in that area. Also, I'm not sure if people were allowed to park in the recreation area overnight before 2011 if they were hiking the Little Missouri Trail as part of the Eagle Rock Loop. I never hiked the loop till afterwards, but if parking was allowed overnight somewhere at Albert Pike for hikers, that would be very convenient.

Even though my comments thus far have addressed the Proposed Action because it is the preferred option of the Forest, I am a supporter of the New Campground Construction option over the Proposed Action (with my concerns about Loop C remaining). Camping at Bard Springs is still closed making Shady Lake the only camping opportunity in the more immediate area, and that is still 30 minutes away. And, let's be frank. If given the option of camping at Bard Springs or Albert Pike, I think the answer is clearly Albert Pike.

The aesthetics of the area and easy access to the river makes it the more popular choice. And, maybe, I'll slip away from being "substantive" and say that my grandfather grew up in Langley, AR. I grew up traveling from Oklahoma to camp at Albert Pike every summer for the first 26 years of my life. It was/is literally my favorite place in the world. I now live in the Hot Springs area, and I would greatly appreciate the opportunity for my little girls to spend the night in that valley even if the amenities are only a walk-in tent camp site with a vault toilet. Back to trying to be substantive, I think a tent campground would easily be full during the warmer months. It would also bring in some revenue for the management of the recreation area. I know people want RV camping to return, and I wish for that as well. But, with the 100 year flood line as the threshold, I realize that would be hard inside the recreation area boundary.

### Outside the Scope of this EA:

I realize that these comments should have been included at more of the scoping stage, but please allow me to express them even if they have no impact on this EA.

I know my family camps at Daisy State Park and makes day trips to both Albert Pike and Little Missouri Falls during our summer trip now. I have to think that the Forest could be creative in creating another RV camping option that is outside the 100 year floodplain.

I realize that this requires funds that may not exist, but could it eventually produce revenue with the amount of people using that area of the forest? I realize people are free to do disperse camping, but if the forest managed sites had at least electric, I have to think money could be made. I don't know the ROI on something like that if bathrooms and electric infrastructure has to be established, but I know you would be meeting a desired recreational use. And, the closer to the Albert Pike area the better. Sometimes I wonder if the sites could be on the other side of road from where Loop D was.

I am also a supporter of investigating and establishing a day use fee at Albert Pike if you are parking your car inside the recreation area. I think this could also disperse use of the area and would allow funding to be reinvested in the management of the area. I know day use fees are charged at Charlton, and I think Albert Pike is just as enticing to the public.

Sincerely,  
Caysie and Jason Martin  
221 Mt Riente Rd.  
Hot Springs, AR 71913

To whom it may concern:

My opinion is this:

instead of opening more areas at Albert Pike, you need to spend more money cleaning what you do

have open now. My property is down river from the day use area. Not only do these pictures

illustrate what I see after the crowd leaves at the end of each day, they give you an idea of how

much trash goes into the river and floats down to my property. The bathroom pictures are of one open bathroom located in area B. The trash is always left for days before it is picked up.

The bathroom photos are of the women's bathroom in area B, Albert Pike. The trash receptacles are from day use areas A and B.

Janice McRae

158 Lake Forest Shores Dr

Hot Springs, AR 71913

x

Comment ID	Name	Affiliation	Substantive Comment	Revised Response
<a href="#">12</a>	Lumley, Teresa	Individual	The best option, in my opinion, based on the provided information, would be keep A & B open for day use year round. Keep bathrooms and bath house open and maintained there and add the new restroom but seems in loop A would make more sense for it. Construct new tent camping sites comparable to loop A&B above loop C with restroom and parking. Not sure why a bath house couldn't be constructed in the area of new tent camping. But if the bath house remains open in loop B at least there is an option of showering. Picnic pavilion and restroom loop D.	<p>Thank you for your comment. This Environmental Assessment analyzes a New Campground Construction Alternative, which would include a new campground for tent camping near Loop C above the 100-year flood elevation, serviced by an SST vault restroom. Under the Proposed Action, the Loop D picnic pavilion would remain intact.</p> <p>In alternatives which add a new SST vault restroom in Loop B, the restroom location was chosen because it allows for the installation of a double vault (men/woman's) restroom in handicap accessible location outside of the 100-year flood elevation.</p> <p>In alternatives where Loop D improvements exist, a restroom was not contemplated for two main reasons. First, the area is for parking (transient use). Second, the location is below the 100-year flood elevation, which poses safety concerns.</p>
<a href="#">21</a>	Williams, Greg	Individual	I understand the need to remove structures and let the area revert to primitive status. If it can't be maintained properly, that is better then just letting the structures remain and deteriorate. What I would like to see done in the Albert Pike Recreation Area (and especially around the Eagle Rock Loop) is better signage for parking. Parking that would allow me to leave my car parked while I made the loop. That is a 30 mile loop and I'm almost 70 years of age. I would like to make that hike. But I know it will take me 4 to 6 days and I need someplace I know my car is allowed to remain during that time.	<p>Thank you for your comment. Chapter 3 Draft Environmental Assessment states, "An expectation of the Proposed Action would be an overall increase in visitation to APRA because of the year-round day use and improvement of facilities and infrastructure,[...]increase in signage, increased maintenance[...]" Regarding parking for the Eagle Rock Loop trail, four other designated access points (trailheads) are available for access. While the ability to overnight park in APRA may no longer persist, the access to parking is still available in other locations.</p>
<a href="#">26</a>	Taylor, Charles and Deborah	Individual	Please consider the following: Loop C: (1) Clean up the former overnight camping sites and install picnic tables and parking for day use only. Many users over the years used Loop C to access the river. With the foliage overgrown as it currently is, there is no way to access the river for recreational enjoyment. (2) Open the restroom facilities in Loop C. New Overnight Camping Loop: (1) Design and construct a new primitive overnight camping loop above the 100 year floodplain. The Albert Pike Recreation Area is large enough to accommodate a new loop higher on the mountain. (2) Install a bathroom for the new loop	<p>Thank you for your comment. This Environmental Assessment analyzes a New Campground Construction Alternative, which would include a new campground for tent camping near Loop C above the 100-year flood elevation, serviced by an SST vault restroom. Parking for the new campground would be evaluated at a later date. Converting the former camping sites in Loop C to day use areas was not considered due to their proximity to a blind corner on USFS Road 106. Day users parking alongside or crossing Road 106 to access the river would pose safety concerns. Under the Proposed Action and the New Campground Construction Alternative, the river would be accessible from the Loop D parking area. While access at Loop C would not be available under these two alternatives, the river would still be accessible from several locations.</p>
<a href="#">37</a>	Horton, MaLisa	Individual	Due to the negative impact of unsupervised camping currently happening there, is it possible to install vault toilets, if not more flush toilets. What about dumpsters for trash management? Having a larger picnic/day use area would be favorable. And is it possible to establish a camping area higher up that is not prone to flooding?	<p>Thank you for your comment. Overnight camping is currently prohibited within the Albert Pike Recreation Area. This Environmental Assessment includes two alternatives (the Proposed Action and the New Campground Construction Alternative) in which vault restrooms are constructed. These alternatives both include increased day use opportunities. The New Campground Construction Alternative includes the development of a new campground for tent camping near Loop C above the 100-year flood elevation, serviced by an SST vault restroom.</p> <p>Chapter 3 Draft EA states, "An expectation of the Proposed Action would be an overall increase in visitation to APRA because of the year-round day use and improvement of facilities and infrastructure,[...] increase in signage, increased maintenance[...]" Finally, specific types of waste management options (such as dumpsters) are not detailed in this Environmental Assessment and are done at an operational level by District recreation staff.</p>

[43](#)

Best, Laura

Individual

One suggestion that you may want to consider is this. There is a natural plateau where the amphitheater was. Could not a road be cut to that and camp sites created as to be above the flood hazard. Surely that would be enough in elevation to provide a safe area to camp.

Thank you for your comment. The New Campground Construction Alternative includes the development of a new campground for tent camping near Loop C above the 100-year flood elevation, serviced by an SST vault restroom. The number of camping sites would depend upon design criteria and topographic features.

[45](#)

Martin, Caysie

Individual

First, I know those that manage this area are aware that the spaces in Loop A and B can be completely full on busy weekends. If Loop C was returned to pull in picnic spots for Day Use (with picnic table only) or if there were simply designated parking spots along that side of the river (without picnic tables), that could disperse the overuse at the swimming hole area since it would be more convenient to access the river from that side if the vegetation was managed. I know you can reach the river from Loop B, but the incline is considerably steeper trying to go from Loop B down to the river than from the other side of the river. It is especially hard for those with small children.

Second, as stated in the Open House, no matter what happens people have access to the river, and if people are left to their own devices, they will park wherever they see fit and make trails all over especially if you do start trimming back the overgrowth along Loop C. That could also cause traffic issues if people are not pulling off the road enough. I would prefer that the USFS create clear places for people to park and paths to the river, so everyone could enjoy that part of river more freely. Will there still be volunteer trails pop up? Yes, but given the option, people will follow the path of least resistance.

Furthermore, on the Open House, the Supervisor mentioned the sustainability of managing Loop C being an issue. Specifically, the concrete of the bathhouse is typically underwater at least once year. I believe the old host spot was also paved. I can't remember if any of the other spots were updated in the last construction with concrete, but when I say places to park/picnic, I would be proposing natural surfacing or gravel, nothing concrete or asphalt. I am in support of the decommissioning of the existing Loop C bathhouse if it is not sustainable to continue its management, but a vault toilet and trash bins would be helpful if parking was managed along Loop C to avoid litter. The EA never mentioned parking for the Bluff Mountain Trail. As it is now, I feel with the overgrowth along Hwy 369 there isn't a safe place to park for that trail head and with the overgrowth parking seems to be discourage in that area. Also, I'm not sure if people were allowed to park in the recreation area overnight before 2011 if they were hiking the Little Missouri Trail as part of the Eagle Rock Loop. I never hiked the loop till afterwards, but if parking was allowed overnight somewhere at Albert Pike for hikers, that would be very convenient. Even though my comments thus far have addressed the Proposed Action because it is the preferred option of the Forest, I am a supporter of the New Campground Construction option over the Proposed Action (with my concerns about Loop C remaining). I think a tent campground would easily be full during the warmer months. It would also bring in some revenue for the management of the recreation area.

Thank you for your comment. Converting the former camping sites in Loop C to day use areas was not considered due to their proximity to a blind corner on USFS Road 106. Day users parking alongside or crossing Road 106 to access the river would pose safety concerns. Under the Proposed Action and the New Campground Construction Alternative, the river would be accessible from the Loop D parking area. While access at Loop C would not be available under these two alternatives, the river would still be accessible from several locations. Likewise, those wishing to access the Bluff Mountain Trail could park in Loop A, B, or D. Based on this comment, the EA (Chapter 3, Public Safety section) has been modified to clarify available parking under each alternative.

Regarding parking for the Eagle Rock Loop trail, four other designated access points (trailheads) are available for access. While the ability to overnight park in APRA may no longer persist, the access to parking is still available in other locations.